

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer- implemented, non-buyer-driven method for facilitating the selection, purchase, configuration and installation of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment using volume pricing and purchase commitment aggregation, comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing an automated, Internet-based, interactive and centrally-managed energy consulting system having a computer database;

(b) causing the system to query a plurality of manufacturers' or sellers' databases to perform a search for specification data and pricing data for non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment;

(c) collecting and storing, in the computer database, selected portions of specification data and pricing data found during the search;

(d) determining at least one volume discount price level associated with at least one equipment demand level for non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment available from at least one manufacturer or seller;

(e) collecting and storing, in the database, energy usage data and site resource data received interactively from at least one customer;

(f) determining by computer, based on the energy usage data and the site resource data, the feasibility of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment for the customer;

(g) calculating by computer, using the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level, a proposed configuration of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment and proposed price at the volume discount price level for the configuration for the customer;

(h) transforming by computer the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level into a proposed equipment acquisition contract, and providing the contract to the customer;

(i) receiving an executed contingent equipment acquisition contract from the customer, prior to the expenditure of funds to acquire equipment and pay for a site visit by an energy consultant, which contract becomes binding only if the aggregate number of a plurality of customers executing acquisition contracts reaches a threshold level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level, and which contract remains non-binding if said aggregate number does not reach said threshold level;

(j) aggregating the contracts executed by the plurality of customers to calculate an aggregate equipment demand level;

(k) notifying the customer when the aggregate equipment demand level reaches a level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level;

(l) using the system to facilitate acquisition of the equipment from one or more manufacturers or sellers; and

(m) using the system to facilitate installation of the equipment at a customer location.

2 – 3. (previously canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the site resource data comprise data on customer geographic location, orientation of structures, access to an electric power grid, availability of sunlight, availability of space for photovoltaic cells, availability of wind, availability of space for wind turbines, availability of hydrogen-based fuels, availability of space for fuel cells, applicable utility tariffs and applicable governmental regulations.

5. (previously canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the energy generation equipment is based on at least one of the following technologies: photovoltaic, wind

turbine, fuel cell, batteries, geothermal, passive solar, biomass, microturbines and micro-hydro systems.

7 - 14. (previously canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which each customer is automatically matched with at least one of a trained specifier, a trained installer, or a trained electrician.

16. (previously canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which ~~the~~ a goal of reducing costs of energy systems is made more likely by ~~are reduced by using the consulting system to organize customers~~ further including the step of organizing customer data in the database to for use in encouraging customers to advocate politically for regulatory changes, by automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities, and coordinating such activities, including with environmental organizations, designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will would -lower the price of energy generation systems for them, and to enact legislation to require their local utility to buy back, at the a retail rate, energy generated without burning fossil fuels -causing pollution.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which ~~the~~ a goal of increasing the number of potential customers is made more likely by increased by using the consulting system to organize customers further including the step of organizing customer data in the database to for use in encouraging customers to advocate politically for regulatory changes which reduce the cost of energy generation systems, by automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities, and coordinating such activities, including with environmental organizations designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that will lower the price of energy systems for them, and to enact legislation to require their local utility to buy back, at the a retail rate, energy generated without burning fossil fuels. causing pollution.

19 – 22. (previously canceled)

23. (currently amended) A computer- implemented system for facilitating the selection, purchase, configuration and installation of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment using volume pricing and purchase commitment aggregation, comprising:

(a) an Internet-based, interactive, centrally managed, non-buyer-driven energy consulting system having a computer database;

(b) means within the system for querying a plurality of manufacturers' or sellers' databases to perform a search for specification data and pricing data for non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment;

(c) means within the system for collecting and storing in the database selected portions of specification data and pricing data found during the search;

(d) means within the system for determining at least one volume discount price level associated with at least one equipment demand level for non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment available from at least one manufacturer or seller;

(e) an interactive interface configured to collect and store, in the database, energy usage data and site resource data from at least one customer;

(f) means within the system for determining by computer, based on the energy usage data and the site resource data, the feasibility of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment for the customer;

(g) means within the system for calculating by computer, using the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level, a proposed configuration of non-fossil-fuel-burning energy generation equipment and proposed price at the volume discount price level for the configuration for the customer;

(h) means within the system for transforming by computer the equipment specification data, equipment pricing data, energy usage data, site resource data, volume discount price level and equipment demand level into a proposed equipment acquisition contract, and providing the contract to the customer;

(i) means within the system for receiving an executed contingent equipment acquisition contract from the customer, prior to the expenditure of funds to purchase equipment and pay for a site visit by an energy consultant, which contract becomes

binding only if the aggregate number of a plurality of customers executing acquisition contracts reaches a threshold level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level, and which contract remains non-binding if said aggregate number does not reach said threshold level;

(j) means within the system for aggregating the contracts executed by the plurality of customers to calculate an aggregate equipment demand level;

(k) means within the system for notifying the customer when the aggregate equipment demand level reaches a level equal to or greater than the equipment demand level associated with the volume discount price level;

(l) means using the system to facilitate acquisition of the equipment from one or more manufacturers or sellers; and

(m) means using the system to facilitate installation of the equipment at a customer location.

24 – 25. (previously canceled)

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, in which the site resource data comprise data on customer geographic location, orientation of structures, access to an electric power grid, availability of sunlight, availability of space for photovoltaic cells, availability of wind, availability of space for wind turbines, availability of hydrogen-based fuels, availability of space for fuel cells, applicable utility tariffs and applicable governmental regulations.

27. (previously canceled)

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, in which the energy generation equipment is based on at least one of the following technologies: photovoltaic, wind turbine, fuel cell, batteries, geothermal, passive solar, biomass, microturbines and micro-hydro systems.

29 - 36. (previously canceled)

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, in which the means to facilitate purchase and installation of the equipment includes means for automating the process of matching each customer with at least one of a trained specifier, a trained installer, or a trained electrician.

38. (previously canceled)

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further including means using the consulting system for making more likely a goal of reducing the costs of energy systems, including means using the consulting system to organize customers for organizing customer data in the database to for use in encouraging customers to advocate politically for regulatory changes, including means for automatically inviting

customers to participate in lobbying activities, and coordinating such activities, including with environmental organizations, designed to persuade their local government to enact incentives that ~~will~~ would lower the price of energy systems for them, and to enact legislation to require their local utility to buy back, at the a retail rate, energy generated without ~~causing pollution~~ burning fossil fuels.

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further including means using the consulting system for making more likely a goal of increasing the number of potential customers, including means using the consulting system to organize ~~customers~~ customer data in the database ~~to~~ for use in encouraging customers to advocate politically for regulatory changes ~~which reduce the cost of energy systems~~, including means for automatically inviting customers to participate in lobbying activities, and coordinating such activities, including with environmental organizations, designed to persuade their local government to enact ~~incentives that will lower the price of energy systems for them, and to~~ legislation to require their local utility to buy back, at the a retail rate, energy generated without burning fossil fuels. ~~causing pollution.~~

41 – 49. (previously canceled)